

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Objections to the claims

Claims 14 and 16-18 are objected to for certain informalities, all of which have been addressed via appropriate amendments herein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. This rejection has also been addressed via amendments herein, and Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been thereby overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-7, 11-18, 21, 23 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6172878 to Nachtomy. The Examiner further indicates that claims 23 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, subject to the previously addressed 112 rejection. Without agreeing with the Examiner with respect to the present rejection and solely for the purpose of passing this case to issue, Applicants have hereby amended claims 1 and 24 to incorporate the limitations of claims 23 and 25, respectively, and have further canceled claims 23 and 25 without prejudice. Applicants therefore submit that the present rejection has been overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 8-10, 19-21, 24-26 and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5959717 to Chaum. Applicants submit that in light of the amendments discussed above, this rejection is likewise moot.

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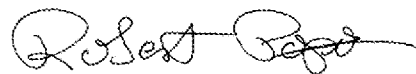
Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicants believe that this art does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,



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